Steptoe provides clients with an integrated approach to strategic customs planning and compliance. The leading legal directories, including *Chambers & Partners*, consistently recognize Steptoe with their highest rankings, and *Law360* has honored Steptoe five times as an "International Trade Group of the Year." With more than 35 international trade lawyers in Washington, London, and Brussels, we regularly advise *Fortune 500* companies and non-US entities on how to secure their international trade objectives when import and export shipments are cleared through US Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Each time a company sends a shipment to the United States, there can be multiple import compliance requirements that apply. For each and every shipment, US law requires the importer to have researched all the applicable requirements, up to a level described in the law as using "reasonable care." In addition, as part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), CBP requires companies to pay close attention to the physical security of their supply chain and import shipments. These security obligations may add to compliance requirements and always exist regardless of whether any import duties are due.

Steptoe counsels importers regarding all aspects of compliance with this increasingly complex regulatory regime:

- Classification
- Valuation
- Country of origin declaration and marking requirements
- Proper declaration of antidumping and countervailing duty goods
- Duty reduction programs (NAFTA, GSP, KORUS, US-Israel, MTB, etc.)
- American goods returned
- Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT)
- Brokers and POAs
- Surety bonds
- Prior disclosures to protect against penalties for errors
- Binding rulings
- Protests and appeals
- Defense Against Penalty cases
- Focused assessments and other CBP audits

We also help clients respond to CBP notices of action and enforcement, (including forfeiture cases), conduct internal compliance reviews, and prepare compliance manuals and internal operating procedures and advisory opinions. Steptoe advised clients involved in some of the first audits under the Customs Modernization Act and since then has continued to expand its substantial experience by ensuring clients have adequate compliance systems that are capable of meeting long-standing import and export requirements as well as the increasingly-important security standards under US customs law.
Noteworthy

- *Chambers Asia-Pacific*, International Trade/WTO, China (2011-2021)
- *Chambers USA*, International Trade: Trade Remedies & Trade Policy, Nationwide (2017-2020)
- *Chambers USA*, International Trade, Nationwide (2005-2016)
News & Publications

PRESS RELEASES

Steptoe Launches Global Trade Policy Blog
November 10, 2020

PRESS RELEASES

GIR Names Steptoe One of the Top 30 Investigations Firms for Sixth Year
October 23, 2020

PRESS RELEASES

Steptoe Launches Multifaceted Supply Chain Team
September 9, 2020

PRESS RELEASES

Luke Tillman Selected for Membership to the Council on Foreign Relations
June 29, 2020

CLIENT ALERTS

President Issues Executive Order on Domestic Bulk-Power System
May 1, 2020
By: Richard L. Roberts, Marc L. Spitzer, Joel D. Kaufman

PRESS RELEASES

Steptoe Receives China Business Law Award for Seventh Consecutive Year
April 6, 2020

CLIENT ALERTS

FAQs on the Section 301 Process
August 15, 2018 (updated March 2, 2020)
By: Ambassador Susan G. Esserman, Eric C. Emerson, Gregory S. McCue, Thomas J. Trendl, Joel D. Kaufman, Zhu (Judy) Wang

CLIENT ALERTS

Brexit Flash Report - A Tale of Two Mandates
Part 2: The UK Negotiating Approach
February 28, 2020
By: David O’Sullivan, Christophe Bondy, Charles Whiddington

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Brexit Flash Report - A Tale of Two Mandates
Part 1: The EU Negotiating Mandate
February 25, 2020
By: David O’Sullivan, Christophe Bondy, Charles Whiddington

CLIENT ALERTS

Brexit - A Long Goodbye
February 4, 2020
By: Charles Whiddington, David O’Sullivan
Events

SEMINARS & EVENTS

Brexit and the Chemical Sector
March 3, 2020
Speakers: Ruxandra Cana, Darren Abrahams, Yongqing Bao, Hannah Widemann
Sheraton Frankfurt Airport Hotel and Conference Center
Hugo-Eckner-Ring 15
Frankfurt, Germany

SEMINARS & EVENTS

Brexit and Customs Preparedness
February 26, 2019
Brewer's Hall
Aldermanbury Square
London EC2V 7HR

WEBINARS

The US-China Trade Relationship
Strategies for Coping with the New Normal
August 28, 2018
Speakers: Eric C. Emerson, Gregory S. McCue, Leslie A. Belcher, Henry Cao

International Law Advisories

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US Government Ramps Up Actions to Combat Forced Labor
November 30, 2020
By: Meredith Rathbone, Brittany Prelogar, Nicholas Kimbrell

INTERNATIONAL LAW ADVISORY

New Orders Issued Barring Imports into the US from Certain Xinjiang-Related Entities
September 18, 2020
By: Brittany Prelogar, Meredith Rathbone, Gregory S. McCue, Nicholas Kimbrell

INTERNATIONAL LAW ADVISORY

US Weighs Further Xinjiang-Related Enforcement, Including Cotton Import Ban
September 9, 2020
By: Brittany Prelogar, Meredith Rathbone, Gregory S. McCue, Wendy Wysong, Ali Burney, Nicholas Turner, Nicholas Kimbrell

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